

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: AFIN, NATO

SUBJ: SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS  
IMMEDIATE STAFF

AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING DRAFT LETTER  
FROM DE STAERCKE, DEAN OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH DE STAERCKE PROPOSES  
TO SEND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS THIS WEEK AFTER  
RECEIVING COMMENTS BY PERM REPS. I HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE  
LETTER NOT BE DISPATCHED UNTIL THE US HAS HAD A CHANCE TO  
REVIEW IT. MISSION COMMENTS ARE FORWARDED IN SEPTTEL.

QUOTE DEAR MR. DRAKERT: I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU  
THAT THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MET, IN PRESENCE OF THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, TO EXAMINE THE  
QUESTION OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM ALLOWANCES FOR THE SECRETARY  
GENERAL AND HIS IMMEDIATE COLLABORATORS.

DURING THIS MEETING, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A LIMITED  
AND CONFIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE MADE OF THE PASSAGE  
CONCERNING THIS MATTER IN THE BOARD OF AUDITORS' 1969/1970  
REPORT. CONSEQUENTLY, I WILL HAVE THIS PASSAGE SENT PERSONALLY  
TO EACH OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE  
IT MAY SERVE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MY COLLEAGUES HAVE ASCERTAINED  
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THAT THE SYSTEM PRESENTLY APPLIED IN REIMBURSING THE TRAVEL AND

PER DIEM EXPENSES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, AS WELL AS THOSE OF THEIR COLLABORATORS TRAVELLING WITH THEM, HAS THE ONLY SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES FOR THE SYG AND DEPUTY SYG, THE ONLY TWO NATO OFFICIALS OF AMBASSADORIAL RANK. LUNS REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THIS AFFAIR AS REPORTED IN USNATO 957 AND PRIOR, AND TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO DE STAERCKE AS DEAN OF THE COUNCIL.

2. DE STAERCKE POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN NATO'S POLICY FROM THE BEGINNING THAT FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE SYG WOULD BE TREATED DIRECTLY BY THE COUNCIL, AND THAT THE DEAN OF THE COUNCIL WOULD CHAIR MEETINGS ON SUCH MATTERS, WHICH WOULD THUS BE LESS LIABLE TO INSENSITIVE HANDLING THAN IF THEY WERE TREATED BY THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF PAYMENT OF SYG SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES IS COMPARABLE TO THOSE WHICH HAD BEEN PAID TRADITIONALLY IN NATO. HE SAID THERE WAS THEREFORE NO REASON TO CHANGE IT FOR THE FUTURE.

3. DE STAERCKE THEN COMMENTED ON WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE PERM REPS ON THIS SUBJECT ON FEBRUARY 13 (USNATO 802). THE ELEMENTS OF THAT AGREEMENT WERE:

A. THAT THE SYG WOULD CIRCULATE THE AUDITORS' REPORT MINUS THE SENSITIVE SECTION AND THAT ONE COPY PER DELEGATION OF THE SENSITIVE SECTION WOULD BE SENT TO EACH PERM REP FOR HANDLING AS HE SAID FIT, AND

B. THAT A CORRECTIVE ACTION ON THE SYG SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE PAST AND PRESENT PRACTICE CONFORMED TO THE REGULATION. SPIERENBURG (NETHERLANDS) DID NOT AGREE THAT AGREEMENT HAD

BEEN REACHED AT THE PRIVATE MEETING, BUT SAID THAT HE AGREED TO THAT APPROACH. DE ROSE (FRANCE) SAID THAT HE COULD AGREE ALSO, BUT WANTED TO BE ASSURED THAT THE PRESENT PRACTICE HAS BEEN THE LONG-STANDING PRACTICE OF NATO. DE STAERCKE CONFIRMED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT.

4. RUMSFELD (US) INDICATED THAT USG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO ADEQUATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES, BUT THAT THEY AGREED THAT THE AUDITORS WERE PROPERLY DOING THE JOB ASSIGNED THEM BY THE COUNCIL. IT WAS THEREFORE UP TO THE PERM REPS WITH RESPECT TO THE PAST TO EITHER CONFIRM THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PAST PRACTICE BY CONCLUDING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE NAC TO ALTER THAT PRACTICE IN 1966 OR TO AGREE WITH THE AUDITORS  
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INTERPRETATION. AS TO THE FUTURE, THE PERM REPS SHOULD EITHER AGREE ON AN INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES WHICH CONFORMS TO PRESENT PRACTICE OR DEVELOP NEW RULES TO WHICH ALL COULD AGREE. OTHERS AGREED THAT THESE WERE THE ISSUES AND

MOST AGREED THAT AN INTERPRETATION BE TAKEN CONFIRMING THE TRADITIONAL PRACTICE AND TO CONTINUING ITS APPLICATION IN THE FUTURE. RUMSFELD RAISED THE QUESTION ABOUT PARALLELISM WITH OTHER COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS. NO- ONE WAS ABLE TO ANSWER WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT DE STAERCKE WOULD PREPARE A DRAFT LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS SUMMARIZING THE SENSE OF THE MEETING AND CIRCULATE IT TO PERM REPS FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO ITS FORMAL DISPATCH. GERMAN AND US REPS INDICATED THAT THE MATTER HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN CAPITALS. LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND DISPATCHED TO DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEL.

6. PERM REPS ARE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN PRESTIGE OF NATO SYGS, PAST AND PRESENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY DE STAERCKE THAT THE PRESENT PRACTICE HAD BEEN NATO' S TRADITION QTE SINCE LORD ISMAY UNQTE SEEMED TO BE A CONTROLLING FACTOR IN OVERCOMING ANY RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPTING AND REGULARIZING EXISTING PRACTICE.

7. ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED SOLUTION IS NOT FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A, MISSION RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. ACCEPT PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF SENSITIVE PARAGRAPH IN SINGLE COPY TO PERM REPS SINCE PERM REPS CAN DISTRIBUTE NORMALLY WITHIN THEIR NATIONAL CHANNELS AS THEY SEE FIT.
  - B. SINCE DECISIONS CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED NATO STAFF RENUMERATION IN GENERALLY HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN TAKEN BY PERM REPS IN PRIVATE SESSION RATHER THAN BY CBC, IT APPEARS THAT PRESENT MATTER WAS ONLY REFERRED TO CBC BY AN ERROR ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF. NORMALLY, THIS MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TREATED IN PRIVATE BY THE FINANCIAL ADVISORS OF THE DELEGATIONS AND DECIDED UPON BY THE AMBASSADORS ON THEIR RECOMMENDATION. PRESENT CASE HAS RECEIVED TOO MUCH ATTENTION ALREADY AND I BELIEVE IT SHOULD NOW BE RESOLVED BY THE NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR SUCH MATTERS.
  - C. WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE FULLY THE PRACTICES OF OTHER COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRESENT NATO PRACTICE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A LONG- STANDING POLICY.
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BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO ALTER IT AT THIS POINT, WE RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

8. FYI: WE HAVE VERIFIED THAT, WHILE LORD ISMAY REFUSED ANY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, HIS SUCCESSORS SINCE 1957 WERE PAID AT THE RATE OF THE HIGHEST CLASSIFIED STAFF PLUS HOTEL AND BREAKFAST EXPENSES. SINCE 1966, THIS PRACTICE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN CONTINUED AT THE RATE OF 125 PCT OF THE HIGH CLASSIFIED SUBSISTENCE PAID, PLUS BED AND BREAKFAST. END FYI.

9. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE PROMPTLY. RUMSFELD

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